

## **SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT (SEP)**

### **PROPOSED BY**

### **VICTOR VALLEY WASTEWATER RECLAMATION ASSOCIATION (VWVRA)**

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The Mojave River Characterization Study (MRCS) was proposed by VWVRA as a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) in October 2006. The project was designed to characterize the water quality, biological resources, and beneficial uses of the Mojave River upstream and downstream of the VWVRA wastewater treatment plant for the purpose of providing information to assist in updating Basin Plan water quality standards and provide a more solid foundation for implementation of future control actions. The MRCS originally included water quality monitoring at six sites along the Mojave River within the Study Area monthly for 18 months, a fish characterization study and bioassessment at each of the water quality sampling sites, beneficial use assessments monthly at the water quality sampling sites, and additional beneficial use surveys.

VWVRA proposes to use additional SEP funding to extend the duration of the MRCS to include additional water quality monitoring events beyond the original 18 months to two full years, a second aquatic life characterization in the spring of 2009, and an expanded beneficial use assessment survey. These additional activities would provide a more robust data set and the opportunity for a more comprehensive characterization of the Mojave River. VWVRA will augment and expand the Mojave River Characterization Study by supplementing the existing tasks as described below.

#### **Task 1. Detailed Study Plans**

Under the current SEP scope, detailed study plans were completed. Under the proposed SEP scope these plans would be revised to incorporate the project expansion and any other revisions necessary to keep the document current. These revisions will include revisions to monitoring locations and schedules, project organization, and may include revisions to any other sections which are not current.

#### **Task 2. Water Quality Monitoring**

The current project covers 18 water quality monitoring events for the Mojave River Characterization Study (MRCS) as described in the QAPP developed under Task 1. The original SEP also includes that a summary memo be completed by June 30, 2009 that describes what was done during the first 18 monitoring events and provides preliminary raw results without analysis. This expanded scope adds an additional six monitoring events to the MRCS to expand the MRCS to a full two-year study. The additional six monitoring events will take place at the same seven monitoring sites addressed by the first 18 months of sampling, unless unforeseen occurrences (such as winter storms) prevent a site from being accessed.

### **Task 3. Aquatic Life Characterization Study**

The current project includes a bioassessment and a fish identification study that were completed in April, 2008. The original SEP also includes that a summary memo be completed by June 30, 2009 that describes what was done under the original SEP and provides preliminary raw results without analysis. Under the expanded scope, a second bioassessment and fish identification study will be completed in the spring of 2009. Efforts will be made to have the bioassessments take place in April, 2009, however the exact timing of the events will be dependent on weather and the availability of bioassessment and fish survey staff. The bioassessment and fish identification study would be conducted at all sites with flowing water (all seven sites). All sites are expected to have flowing water during the spring.

### **Task 4. Beneficial Uses Characterization**

Under the current project questionnaires targeting categories of beneficial uses are being developed and distributed to public agencies, and beneficial use assessments are being conducted in conjunction with water quality monitoring events. A final report will be developed summarizing the results and commenting on the status of beneficial uses on the Mojave River. The original SEP also includes that a summary memo be completed by June 30, 2009 following the first 18 monitoring events that describes what was done and provides preliminary raw results without analysis. Under the expanded scope, beneficial use assessments will continue to be conducted in conjunction with the additional six monitoring events, and the additional collected data will be included in the final beneficial use report.

### **Task 5. Characterization Study Report**

The current project provides for writing a Draft Study Report, meeting with VVWRA and the Regional Board to discuss the Report, and preparing a Final Study Report. The expanded scope provides for the processing and analysis of the additional collected data, the greater effort of reporting on a larger timeframe and amount of data, and a more thorough analysis of the Study over the longer time frame, including statistical analysis that would not have been possible under the previous SEP given the amount of data collected. This task would also provide for incorporating data from outside studies if available and appropriate.

The Report will include:

- An overview/background of the Study
- A description of the study area
- A description of the monitoring locations
- A summary of the types of data collected and the analyses performed
- A discussion of the data in terms of completeness and quality
- A water quality analysis by constituent, including statistical analysis
- A discussion of the information presented in the Bioassessment and Fish Identification Reports
- A description of the Beneficial Use Characterization
- A summary of all data collected

## Task 6. Project Management and Administration

Under this task, monthly invoices and quarterly progress reports are prepared, as well as overall project management activities. Under the expanded scope this task would be extended to cover the additional length of the project.

### Schedule and Milestones:

Product	Description	Deadline
Water Quality Monitoring, Aquatic Life Characterization Study, and Beneficial Uses Characterization Summary Memos – 1 <sup>st</sup> 18 months	Brief summary memos outlining what was accomplished in tasks 2-4 of the original SEP and including raw data in graphical and tabular format, and any deviations from the expected monitoring. No analysis is required in these memos.	June 30, 2009
Complete Expanded SEP Tasks 2-4	Complete additional 6 months of water quality monitoring, beneficial use assessments, and an additional aquatic life characterization.	September 30, 2009
Submit Revised Detailed Study Plans/QAPP to Regional Board	Minor revisions to project QAPP to bring it up to date. QAPP will be submitted to Regional Board for comments by given deadline.	January 9, 2009
Draft Characterization Study Report	Draft Report including elements described above under Task 5.	March 31, 2010
Final Characterization Report	Final Report including revisions per Regional Board comments.	June 30, 2010
Quarterly Progress Reports	Includes a description of what has been completed during the quarter, what is expected to be completed during the following quarter, and a summary of the budget for the quarter – including copies of the invoices.	Quarterly (March, June, September, December) through June 30, 2010.